

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An apparatus for turning bound pages, the apparatus comprising:

a support assembly for holding the bound pages comprising:

a) an expandable bracket for supporting a spine of the bound pages;

b) a horizontal crossbar mounted on the expandable bracket; and

c) a pair of expandable folding arms coupled to the horizontal crossbar;

a lifting assembly coupled to the support assembly and capable of lifting at least a portion of a page; and

a turnstile assembly, the turnstile assembly comprising a plurality of flippers;

a motor assembly coupled to the support assembly and coupled to the turnstile assembly;

wherein the turnstile assembly has a rest position in which one of the plurality of flippers is positioned across two opposed bound pages to hold the bound pages in an open condition; and

wherein the motor assembly rotates the turnstile assembly causing the lifting assembly to lift one of the pages and one of the plurality of flippers to rotate underneath the lifted page; and

wherein the finger underneath the lifted page is rotated to turn the page and to place the turnstile in the rest position.

2. (canceled)

3. (original) The apparatus for turning pages of claim 1 wherein the pages may be turned either forward or backward.

4. (original) The apparatus for turning pages of claim 1 wherein the motor assembly further comprises:

a reversible electric motor;

a gear reducer coupled to the electric motor;

an output shaft coupled to the gear reducer and to the turnstile assembly;

a left limiting switch coupled to the electric motor; and

a right limiting switch coupled to the electric motor.

5. (original) The apparatus for turning pages of claim 4 wherein:

the turnstile assembly further comprises:

a disk coupled to the output shaft of the reducing gear, the disk having a top surface and a side surface;

a plurality of pins coupled to the top surface of the disk; and

a plurality of limiting pins coupled to the side surface of the disk, each of the limiting pins being engageable with the left limiting switch and the right limiting switch.

6. (original) The apparatus for turning pages of claim 5 wherein the lifting assembly further comprises a right lifting assembly and a left lifting assembly;

wherein a wheel is coupled to the support assembly;

wherein each of the right lifting assembly and the left lifting assembly further comprises:

a base assembly comprising:

- a track;
- a board slideably coupled to the track;
- an L-shaped bracket coupled to the board, the L-shaped bracket having a rotatable bias pin, wherein the bias pin is engageable with at least one of the plurality of pins coupled to the top surface of the disk; and
- a linkage rotatably coupled to the board; and

a finger assembly comprising:

- a bar;
- a yoke pivotally coupled to the board and rotatably coupled to the bar;
- a cam coupled to the bar, the cam being engageable with the roller coupled to the support assembly;

wherein upon rotation of the turnstile assembly, at least one of the plurality of pins on the disc engages the pin on the L-shaped bracket causing the board to slide along the track and the cam to engage with the roller coupled to the support assembly, thereby causing the bar to rotate relative to the yoke, thereby bringing an end of the bar into contact with a page; and

wherein continued rotation of the turnstile assembly causes the linkage to engage another of the plurality of pins on the disc, thereby causing the linkage to rotate the bar and the yoke relative to the board, thereby lifting a page.

7. (original) The apparatus for turning pages of claim 6 wherein the finger assembly further comprises a flexible bellow attached to the distal end of the bar.

8. (original) The apparatus for turning pages of claim 6 wherein each of the right lifting assembly and the left lifting assembly further comprises:

a first spring coupled to the linkage and the board, the first spring exerting a bias force against the linkage; and

a second spring coupled to board and the track, the second spring exerting a bias force against the board.

9. (original) The apparatus for turning pages of claim 1 further comprising at least one button electrically coupled to the motor for energizing the motor.

10. (original) The apparatus for turning pages of claim 1 further comprising at least one of a foot pedal, a breath-controlled switch, a chin switch, a voice activation device, and a computerized timer electrically coupled to the motor for energizing the motor.

11. (original) A method for turning bound pages comprising:
selecting the apparatus of claim 1;
placing bound pages in the support assembly; and
energizing the motor assembly to turn at least one of the bound pages.

12. (canceled)

13. (canceled)

14. (currently amended) ~~The~~ An apparatus for turning bound pages, the apparatus comprising: of claim 13 further comprising a plurality of rods extending in the lateral direction;
and wherein:

a rotatable turnstile assembly, the turnstile assembly further comprises comprising:

a pinion gear; and

two lifting fingers;

a transportation assembly coupled to the turnstile assembly, the transportation assembly further comprises comprising:

a plurality of finger assemblies;

a rack gear coupled to the pinion gear; and

two yoke assemblies coupled to the rack gear, each yoke assembly further comprising:

a base slideably coupled to the plurality of rods;

a base bracket rotatably coupled to the base; and

a yoke coupled to one of the finger assemblies, the yoke being rotatably coupled to the base bracket; and

a plurality of rods extending in the lateral direction from the rotatable turnstile assembly;

wherein the transportation assembly has a rest position in which the finger assemblies hold the bound pages in an open condition;

wherein rotation of the pinion gear moves the rack gear, causing the yoke assemblies and the finger assemblies to move along the plurality of rods;

wherein rotation of the turnstile assembly moves the transportation assembly in a lateral direction to lift one of the pages and moves the lifting finger underneath the lifted page; and

wherein the lifting finger underneath the lifted page is rotated to turn the page.

15. (original) The apparatus for turning pages of claim 14 further comprising two ramp assemblies;

wherein each of the yokes further comprises a roller follower; and

wherein the roller follower of one yoke engages one of the ramp assemblies as the transportation assembly is moved in the lateral direction to rotate the yoke and bring the finger assembly coupled to the yoke into contact with the book page.

16. (original) The apparatus for turning pages of claim 15 further comprising two limiting lever arms;

wherein each of the base brackets further comprises a lever arm; and

wherein the lever arm of one base bracket engages one of the limiting lever arms as the transportation assembly is moved in the lateral direction to rotate the base bracket, the yoke, and the finger assembly coupled to the yoke away from the book page.

17. (original) The apparatus for turning pages of claim 14 further comprising:

a reversible electric motor coupled to the turnstile assembly;

a limiting switch which upon contact with the transportation assembly reverses the direction of the motor to move the transportation assembly back to the rest position.

18. (original) The apparatus for automatically turning pages of claim 17 further comprising at least one button electrically coupled to the motor for energizing the motor.

19. (original) The apparatus for automatically turning pages of claim 17 further comprising at least one of a foot pedal, a breath-controlled switch, a chin switch, a voice activation device, and a computerized timer electrically coupled to the motor for energizing the motor.

20. (currently amended) The apparatus for turning pages of claim ~~13~~14 wherein the pages may be turned either forward or backward.

21. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~13~~14, wherein each finger assembly further comprises a rubber tip.

22. (new) An apparatus for turning bound pages, the apparatus comprising:
a support assembly for holding the bound pages;
a lifting assembly coupled to the support assembly and capable of lifting at least a portion of a page; and
a turnstile assembly, the turnstile assembly comprising a plurality of flippers;
a motor assembly coupled to the support assembly and coupled to the turnstile assembly;
wherein the motor assembly further comprises:
a reversible electric motor;
a gear reducer coupled to the electric motor;

an output shaft coupled to the gear reducer and to the turnstile assembly;

a left limiting switch coupled to the electric motor; and

a right limiting switch coupled to the electric motor.

wherein the turnstile assembly has a rest position in which one of the plurality of flippers is positioned across two opposed bound pages to hold the bound pages in an open condition;

and

wherein the motor assembly rotates the turnstile assembly causing the lifting assembly to lift one of the pages and one of the plurality of flippers to rotate underneath the lifted page; and

wherein the finger underneath the lifted page is rotated to turn the page and to place the turnstile in the rest position.

23. (new) The apparatus for turning pages of claim 22 wherein:

the turnstile assembly further comprises:

a disk coupled to the output shaft of the reducing gear, the disk having a top surface and a side surface;

a plurality of pins coupled to the top surface of the disk; and

a plurality of limiting pins coupled to the side surface of the disk, each of the limiting pins being engageable with the left limiting switch and the right limiting switch.

24. (new) The apparatus for turning pages of claim 23 wherein the lifting assembly further comprises a right lifting assembly and a left lifting assembly;

wherein a wheel is coupled to the support assembly;

wherein each of the right lifting assembly and the left lifting assembly further comprises:

a base assembly comprising:

a track;

a board slideably coupled to the track;

an L-shaped bracket coupled to the board, the L-shaped bracket having a rotatable bias pin, wherein the bias pin is engageable with at least one of the plurality of pins coupled to the top surface of the disk; and

a linkage rotatably coupled to the board; and

a finger assembly comprising:

a bar;

a yoke pivotally coupled to the board and rotatably coupled to the bar;

a cam coupled to the bar, the cam being engageable with the roller coupled to the support assembly;

wherein upon rotation of the turnstile assembly, at least one of the plurality of pins on the disc engages the pin on the L-shaped bracket causing the board to slide along the track and the cam to engage with the roller coupled to the support assembly, thereby

causing the bar to rotate relative to the yoke, thereby bringing an end of the bar into contact with a page; and

wherein continued rotation of the turnstile assembly causes the linkage to engage another of the plurality of pins on the disc, thereby causing the linkage to rotate the bar and the yoke relative to the board, thereby lifting a page.

25. (new) The apparatus for turning pages of claim 24 wherein the finger assembly further comprises a flexible bellow attached to the distal end of the bar.

26. (new) The apparatus for turning pages of claim 24 wherein each of the right lifting assembly and the left lifting assembly further comprises:

a first spring coupled to the linkage and the board, the first spring exerting a bias force against the linkage; and

a second spring coupled to board and the track, the second spring exerting a bias force against the board.

27. (new) The apparatus for turning pages of claim 22 further comprising at least one button electrically coupled to the motor for energizing the motor.

28. (new) The apparatus for turning pages of claim 22 further comprising at least one of a foot pedal, a breath-controlled switch, a chin switch, a voice activation device, and a computerized timer electrically coupled to the motor for energizing the motor.

29. (new) A method for turning bound pages comprising:
selecting the apparatus of claim 22;
placing bound pages in the support assembly; and
energizing the motor assembly to turn at least one of the bound pages.